IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18 line 19 with the following:

Similarity analysis includes database search and alignment. Examples of public databases include the DNA Database of Japan (DDBJ)(available on the worldwide web at ~~http://www.~~ddbj.nig.ac.jp/); Genebank (available on the worldwide web at the ncbi website at: ~~http:// www ncbi.nlm.nih.gov~~/Web/Search/Index.htlm); and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Nucleic Acid Sequence Database (EMBL) (~~http://www~~ available on the worldwide web at: ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/embl_db/embl-db.html). Other appropriate databases include dbEST (~~http://www~~ available on the worldwide web at: the ncbi website at ~~ncbi.nlm.nih.gov~~/dbEST/index.html), SwissProt (~~http://www~~ available on the worldwide web at: ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/swisprot_db/swisshome.html), PIR (~~http://www~~ available on the worldwide web at: nbrt.georgetown.edu/pir/) and The Institute for Genome Research (~~http://www~~ available on the worldwide web at: tigr.org/tdb/tdb.html).